



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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WALTER WEBER WINS DUCK STAMP CONTEST AGAIN

A picture of two trumpeter swans flying over Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana was chosen today for the 17th duck stamp in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual duck stamp competition in Washington, D. C. The artist of the winning design is Walter A. Weber, of Washington, D. C., Director Albert M. Day today notified Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

Walter Weber is the first former duck stamp artist to win the competition a second time. His first design was used for the 1944-45 duck stamp. That design showed three white-fronted geese. This year's winner -- of trumpeter swans -- is the first design to show a species of waterfowl completely protected by law. There were only 73 trumpeters in the U. S. in 1935, and they were thought to be approaching extinction. Under the protection of the Fish and Wildlife Service -- principally at Red Rock Lakes Refuge -- the swans had reached a population of 451 in 1949.

Runner-up in the competition was A. H. Shortt, of St. Vital, Manitoba, Canada. Mr. Shortt's picture of two blue-winged teal marks the first time that an artist from outside the U. S. has entered the competition. Receiving honorable mention was J. Laurence Murray, of Compton, California, with his picture of three pintail ducks.

This is the first year that the competition has been opened to all artists -- professional and amateur. In former years, outstanding waterfowl artists were invited by the Director to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group.

Five artists whose designs had been selected in previous years sent in entries again this year in the open contest. Like all the other artists' entries, these five were handled with complete impartiality; the artists' names and other distinguishing features were masked by mounting the entries at random behind large boards which each contained 5 by 7 inch openings.

The five former artists were: Richard E. Bishop, 1936-37; J. D. Knap, 1937-38; Lynn Bogue Hunt, 1939-40; Walter A. Weber, 1944-45; and Jack Murray, 1947-48.

A total of 88 designs were sent in by 65 contestants. Of these, a number were from children and at least a dozen were from women. Only a few women have

submitted entries in former competitions. Twenty-five states, the District of Columbia, and Canada were represented among the entries.

Pennsylvania contestants were the most numerous, with 15 -- which probably represented the good publicity given the contest in that state by Johnny Mock, editor of the "All Outdoors" column in the Pittsburgh Press. New York and Wisconsin were in second place with six contestants each, and Minnesota third with four entrants.

Other states represented are: Arkansas, Maine, Massachusetts, South Dakota, California, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Washington, Wyoming, Florida, Missouri, Arizona, Nebraska, Virginia, Kansas, Indiana, Iowa, and Kentucky.

On the judging committee were the Regional Directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who are in Washington for their annual conference, several of the Service's branch chiefs, and several other wildlife authorities and friends of the Service who have been invited to attend, including: Carl Shoemaker, Washington correspondent, National Wildlife Federation; J. Hammond Brown, Executive director, Outdoor Writer's Association; Honorable Clark W. Thompson, Congressional Representative from Texas; Bob Wilson, Outdoors Editor, Washington Times-Herald; Mike Hudoba, Washington Editor, Sports Afield; and Richard Westwood, Editor, Nature Magazine.

Weber, the winning artist, receives no direct compensation with his award, but he is free to capitalize on his design by selling autographed prints, etc.; all such projects, however, are subject to the terms of a contract he signs with the Service. All entries are to be returned to the contestants.

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